In the Path of the Holy Prophet

Classic Traditions for Contemplation

Compiled by Yahiya Emerick

In the Name of Allah,
The Compassionate,
The Source of All Mercy

The Blessed Prophet Muhammad was noted for his strong character and wisdom. Along with the Qur'an, the Book of Allah, the world has also been blessed with many of the Prophet's sayings, rulings and anecdotes.

Through the reading of his sayings, or *hadiths*, we gain a greater understanding of what he represented as well as valuable lessons from a man of faith.

In this book, 57 of his sayings are presented whose common themes revolve around life, death and our ultimate aim and purpose in life.

Anyone who wishes to gain a greater appreciation for the real reason behind his or her existence will find solace, comfort, insight and biting truth in this unique book.

In the Path of the Holy Prophet...

"For you, there is an excellent pattern (to follow), in the ways of the Messenger of Allah..."

- Qur'an

True Intentions

'Umar ibn al Khattab reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

"Actions will be judged according to intentions, and every one shall have what he intended."

"So if someone migrates for the sake of Allah and His messenger, then that is what his migration will be counted for."

"But if someone migrates for a worldly benefit, or to marry a person, then that is what his migration will be counted for."

It was recorded in both Bukhari and Muslim

The Foundation of the Faith

Ibn 'Umar reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

"Islam is founded upon five things:

- Witnessing that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is His servant and messenger,
- Establishing regular prayers,
- Paying the required charity,
- Performing the pilgrimage,
- And keeping the fast of Ramadan."

It was recorded in both Bukhari and Muslim

Signs of Faith

Abu Umama reports that someone asked the Messenger of Allah • the following question:

"What is the definition of faith?"

He replied, "When doing good makes you feel pleasure and doing wrong makes you feel terrible, then you are a believer."

Then he asked Allah's Messenger, • "What is a sin?"

He replied, "When something bothers your conscience, give it up."

It was recorded by Ahmad

A Lesson in Seeking

Abu Waqid Al Laithi reports that the Messenger of Allah • was sitting in the *masjid* with some people when three men entered.

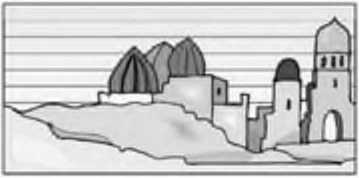
Two of them approached Allah's Messenger • while the third one stepped back.

The two stood before Allah's Messenger • for a time, then one of them found a place in the circle and sat down, while the other sat behind the gathering. The last one left.

When Allah's Messenger • finished his teaching, he asked those gathered, "Shall I tell you about these three people? One of them drew himself to Allah, so Allah took him into His mercy and made room for him."

"The second felt shy before Allah, so Allah sheltered him in His mercy, while the third turned his face from Allah and left, so Allah turned His face from him likewise."

It was recorded in Bukhari



Measurement

'Ali ibn Abi Talib reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

"There are none among you who don't have their place in Hell and Paradise already known."

Someone asked, "Messenger of Allah, • should we then count on what has already been decided for us and abandon all our actions?"

He replied, "Continue to act, because things come easy for those (whose nature is) made for them; good actions come easy for (one who naturally) does good, and evil actions come easy for (one who is) unfortunate."

He then recited: *"As for the one who donates, reveres (His Lord) and witnesses to the truth, We facilitate for him (the way to ease). But as for he who is greedy and thinks himself in need of nothing and rejects the good, We facilitate for him (the way to toil)."* - (Qur'an 92:5-10)

It was recorded in both Bukhari and Muslim

The Burden of Age

Anas bin Malik reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

"The older a person gets the more his desire for two things increases: the desire for wealth and long life."

It was recorded in both Bukhari and Muslim

Faith in Adversity

Suhaib reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

In earlier times there was a King who had a magician. When the magician started to grow very old he begged the King for a favor by saying, "I am old now. So please send me a young man who I can teach magic to."

The King granted the request and arranged for a young man to be his apprentice.

On the road from the village leading to the magician's house lived a monk. The young apprentice liked to sit with him and listen to his teachings.

He was so impressed by the teachings of the monk that every time he went to the magician, he would visit the monk on the way. (But for being late sometimes) the magician would beat the young man. One day, while he was sitting with the monk he complained about this.



So the monk told him, "When you're afraid of the magician, tell him, 'My family kept me.' And when you're afraid of your family tell them, 'The monk delayed me.'"

This pattern went on unchanged until one day when the young man saw a great beast blocking the road. It was dangerous to go near, so people couldn't get around it.

"Now," the young man thought to himself, "I can find out whether the magician is superior to the monk."

Then he grabbed a stone and said, "My Lord, if the way of the monk is more to Your liking than the way of the magician, then cause the death of this beast so people can pass again!"

He then threw it at the beast and killed it and people could travel freely once more.



When the young man told the monk about this, he replied, "My son, you have become better than me, and now I think you've come to a point where you might get into trouble. Should that happen, do not reveal my whereabouts."

And in time the young man began to cure people from blindness and leprosy and all manner of disease. News of his fame finally reached a royal official who had become blind. So he went to the young man with expensive gifts and said, "All this will be yours if you heal me."

The young man replied, "I cannot heal anyone. It is Allah Who gives healing. If you will have faith in Allah I will pray for you and He may heal you."

So he put all his faith in Allah, and then Allah cured him of his blindness.

When he returned to the King and sat with him as always, the surprised King asked him, "Who has returned your sight?"

He answered, "My Lord has done it."

Then the King asked in anger, "*Do you have a lord besides me?*"

The official replied, "Allah is ***your*** Lord and mine."

The enraged King ordered him arrested and he was tortured until he told about the young man. He was promptly summoned to the court where the King asked him, "My son, have you become so skilled in magic that you can heal the blind and the lepers and all manner of ailments?"

"I don't heal anyone." He replied. "It's only Allah Who heals."

Then he was arrested and tortured until he disclosed the location of the monk, who, in turn was summoned. The King ordered him, "Give up your faith."

When the monk refused, the King commanded a saw to be placed in the center of his head and he was sawn down in two.

When the royal minister was sent for and commanded to give up his faith. He also refused and was sawn down.

Then the young man was brought and ordered to give up his faith. When he also declined, the King handed him over to a company of his soldiers and told them, "Take him to a high mountain and when you get to the top, if he still refuses to give up his faith, then throw him off."



So they took him to the mountain and brought him to the highest point. There he prayed, "O Lord, deliver me from them in whatever way You will."

Then the mountain shook and crumbled down. The young man then walked back into the presence of the King who asked, "What has happened to the rest of your group?"

He answered, "Allah has saved me from them."

He was then handed over to another group with orders to take him out to sea in a small boat. And if he still persisted in his faith, he was to be thrown overboard.

As they rowed out the young man prayed, "O Lord, deliver me from them in whatever way you will." Then a wave came and overturned the boat and the men drowned, though the boy was able to swim to the shore.



The young man then went back to the King who asked, "What has happened to the rest of your group?"

He answered, "Allah has saved me from them."

Then he continued, saying, "You'll never be able to kill me unless you follow my instructions."

So the King asked, "What are your instructions?"

The young man replied, "Gather your people in an open place. Next, tie me to the trunk of a tree. Then, take an arrow from my quiver and while placing it in the middle of a bow, you must declare, 'In the name of Allah, the Lord of this young man,' then shoot the arrow at me. If you do this then you can kill me."

So the King made the necessary arrangements: the people were gathered in an open place, the young man was tied to the trunk of a tree and the king placed one of the young man's arrows in the middle of a bow.

He then declared:

**"In the name of Allah,
the Lord of this young man!"**

Then he shot the arrow. It struck the young man on the side of his head. He raised his hand to the wound as he slumped over and died.



Upon seeing this all the people began to cry out, "*We believe in the Lord of the young man!*" Someone whispered to the King, "You see, what you feared is happening: the people are starting to believe in his message."

Then, the King ordered great pits to be dug along the roads and he had huge fires built. Whoever refused to give up their faith would be thrown in the fire or be made to jump in. And so the believing people were brought to the pit.

Then a woman came along with a small boy. She winced and hesitated to be thrown in the fire.

Her son encouraged her saying, "Be steady mother, you are in the right."

It was recorded in Muslim and mentioned in surah 85

Human Nature

Abu Musa reports that the Messenger of Allah * said

"The heart is like a feather in the desert: the wind blows it to and fro."

It was recorded by Ahmad



The Basis of Belief

'Ali reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

"No servant is a true believer unless he affirms faith in these four doctrines: that there is no god but Allah and that I am His Messenger He sent with the truth, and he believes in the fact of death, a life after death and in Divine measurement (of our life span and fate)."

It was recorded by Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah

The Future is Best Left to Allah

A'ishah reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

"He who talks about *Qadr* (knowledge of how the future will be) will have to answer for it on the Day of Resurrection, while he who was silent about it will not."

It was recorded by Ibn Majah

Paradise

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said

"Allah, the Exalted said, '*I have prepared for My righteous servants what no eye has ever seen nor ear heard nor any human being ever conceived of.*'"

"You may read the verse, '*No soul knows what is kept hidden from them of joy, as a reward for what they have done.*'" – (Qur'an 32:17)

It was recorded by Bukhari and Muslim

Life is a Journey

Usman reports that once he was standing by a grave and crying so much that his beard became wet.

Then, someone standing nearby asked him, "You don't cry over discussions of Paradise and Hell, but you are crying over a grave?"

He replied that the Messenger of Allah • said, "Verily, the grave is the first step in the journey towards the next life. If one finds salvation (at this stage) then the succeeding ones become easy for him. If one doesn't find salvation there, what follows becomes very difficult."

Allah's Messenger • also said:

"I've never seen a site more horrible than that of the grave."

It was recorded by Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah

The Start of the Journey

Abu Sa'eed Al Khudri reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

When the coffin is ready and people lift it above their shoulders, if the body is that of a virtuous person it urges, "Take me ahead, take me ahead."

But if it is the body of a wrong-doer it says, "Damn it! Where are you taking me?"

Its cry is heard by everything except humans, and if they could hear it, they would faint.

It was recorded by Bukhari

The Interview

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

When a deceased person is buried in the grave, two angels appear before him, both having black (faces) and blue (eyes). One is called Munkar and the other, Nakir.



They will demand, "Say what you have to say about this person (Muhammad)." He will reply, "He's the servant of Allah and His Messenger. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is His servant and messenger."

Then the angels will say, "We knew you would answer this way."

Then his grave will be expanded to the extent of 4900 square feet and it will be illuminated. Then it would be said to him, "Go to sleep."

He will reply, "I want to go to my family to tell them (about all this)."

But they will say, "Sleep the sleep of a newly-wedded bride whom no one awakens but the one who is dearest to her amongst the family." Only Allah will resurrect him from his resting place.

But if he were a hypocrite, he would reply, "I heard people saying something, so I repeated it, but I don't really know."

And the (two) will reply, "We knew you would answer this way."

Then they will command the earth to press him and it would press him until his ribs are clasped together. He will not be relieved of the torment until Allah resurrects him from his resting place.

It was recorded by Tirmidhi

A Better Way

'Umar ibn al Khattab reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:



If you would put your faith completely in Allah, He would provide for your needs in the same way he provides for the birds.

They go out in the morning with their stomachs empty and return filled in the evening.

It was recorded by Tirmidhi

A Warner

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

My example is that of a man who built a fire. When it blazed brightly, moths and insects were attracted and fell into it.

And though the man tries hard to keep them away, they thwart him and dive in. This I do, I struggle to hold you back from the fire but you leap into it.

It was recorded by Bukhari

The Enumeration of True Virtue

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

You live in a blessed time wherein he who abandons just a tenth of what is required courts destruction, but after this will come a time when he who follows just a tenth of what is now required will be saved.

It was recorded by Tirmidhi



The First Doctrine

Abu Mas'ud reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

Among the words that people obtained from the first revelation were: *If you feel no shame, then do as you wish.*

It was recorded by Bukhari

Proper Perspective

Ibn 'Umar reports that the Messenger of Allah • took him by the shoulder and said:

Be in the world as if you were a stranger, or a drifter.

It was recorded by Bukhari



True or False Motives?

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

Verily, the first person who will be judged on the Day of Resurrection will be a martyr.

He will be brought before (Allah) Who will then list the favors which were bestowed upon him (in the world), and (the martyr) will recognize them.

Then (Allah) will ask, "What did you do with them?"

He would reply, "I fought in Your cause and died a martyr."

Whereupon (Allah) will say, "You are lying. You fought so people would call you brave, and so they said it."

Then the command will be issued and he will be dragged on his face and thrown in Hell-fire.



Then, a person who acquired and taught knowledge and recited the Qur'an will be brought before (Allah) Who will remind him of the blessings (he received) and (the reciter) will recognize them.

(Allah) will ask, "What did you do with them?"

He would reply, "I acquired and taught knowledge and recited the Qur'an for Your sake."

Whereupon (Allah) will say, "You are lying. You acquired knowledge so people would call you a scholar and you recited the Qur'an so they would call you a reciter, and so you were."

Then the command will be issued and he would be dragged and thrown into Hell-fire.

Then a person whom Allah had made affluent and who was given vast wealth would be brought forth and informed about the favors he received, and (the rich person) will recognize them.

Then (Allah) will ask, "What did you do with them?"

He would reply, "I donated to every cause You would have wanted me to."

(Allah) will say, "You are lying. You donated so that people would call you generous, and so it was said."

Then the command will be issued and he will be dragged on his face and thrown in Hell.

It was recorded by Muslim

Light Lodgings

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

It is a part of the excellence of a person's practice of self-surrender (Islam) that he discards what is of no use to him either in this world or in the next.

It was recorded by Tirmidhi.

Recognize the Reality

Al Mustaurid narrated that the Messenger of Allah * said:

By Allah, this world compared to the next is like dipping your fingertip into the sea. Consider what you bring out.

It was recorded by Muslim



A Dangerous Disguise

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

Hell is veiled with delightful things and Paradise is veiled with disagreeable things.

It was recorded by both Bukhari and Muslim

Everything has a Proper Use

Abu Sa'eed al Khadri reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

"Among the fears I have for you after I am gone are the beauty and distraction of the world which you will receive."

When someone asked, "Messenger of Allah, • can something that is good produce evil?"

He remained silent, causing those present to think he was receiving revelation. He then wiped the sweat off (his brow) and called to the man who asked the question in an approving way.



Then he said, "Allah does not produce evil. Among the plants the spring rain produces are some which are poisonous or nearly fatal to all but the type of animal that can feed on it. It eats and when it is full it faces the sun."

"When it has dunged and urinated it returns and eats. This wealth is green and sweet. But he who accepts it wrongly is like a glutton, and it will be evidence against him on the Day of Resurrection."

It was recorded by both Bukhari and Muslim

The Weight of Doing Right

'Abdullah ibn Umar reports that the Messenger of Allah * told the following story:

Three men of a nation that lived before you were on a journey when a storm overtook them, so they sought shelter in a cave. A boulder slipped down from the mountain and blocked the exit from the cave.

One of them said, "The only hope we have is if one of us asks Allah for help mentioning some righteous deed."

So one of them began to pray, "My Lord, my parents were very old and I used to offer them a nightly drink of milk, even before my own children and other family members."

"One day I got lost far away searching for green trees and could only make it home after my parents had gone to sleep. When I milked the animals and brought them their nightly drink, they were fast asleep. I didn't want to disturb them nor did I want to give any of the milk to my children or others until after my parents had their drink."

"Thus, with the vessel in hand, I awaited their awakening till the break of dawn - even though my children complained of hunger at my feet. When they awoke, they had their drink. My Lord, if I did this seeking only Your pleasure, then save us from the distress brought upon us by this stone."



The boulder moved a little, but not enough to let them pass through.

Then the second man prayed, "My Lord, I once had a cousin, whom I loved more passionately than any man has ever loved a woman."

"I tried to seduce her, but she refused my advances. Then a season came of great hardship due to famine, and she approached me (for help)."

"I gave her one hundred and twenty *dinars* on condition that she would have intimate relations with me."

"She agreed and we got together to do it, but just as we were about to start she begged, 'Fear Allah and do not break the seal unlawfully.'"

"So I stayed away from her even though I desired her greatly; and I let her keep the money I had given her."

"My Lord, if I did this seeking only Your pleasure, do save us from the distress in which we find ourselves."

Again, the stone moved a little, but still it was not enough to let them pass.

Then the third man prayed, "My Lord, I hired some workers and paid them their dues, but one of them left without taking what was due to him. I invested it in a business and the venture was very profitable."

"After some time, the worker returned and demanded, 'Servant of Allah! give to me my wages.' I replied, 'All that you see is yours; camels, cattle, goats and servants.'"

"He said, 'Don't joke with me, Servant of Allah.' And I assured him, 'I'm not joking'. So he took it all leaving nothing. Lord, if I did this seeking only Your pleasure, do relieve us of our distress."



The boulder then fell away and all three of them emerged from the cave in safety.

It was recorded by Bukhari and Muslim

True Success

'Abdullah ibn 'Amr reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

The successful person is one who has accepted Islam, been provided with enough to live on and has been made content by Allah for what He has given him.

It was recorded by Muslim

The Reality of Life

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

A person may say, "My wealth, my property," but his real property consists of only three things: what he consumes, what he has worn and torn, and what he gives away and so acquires (as a credit to his record with Allah). Everything else is left to others when he departs.

It was recorded by Muslim

The Seeker

Abu Sa'eed Khadri reports that the Messenger of Allah * told the following story:

A man from a nation of the past, who had murdered ninety-nine people, inquired as to who was the most learned person in the world. He was told to go see a certain Christian monk, so he went to him and asked, "I've killed ninety-nine people. Is there any chance for forgiveness for me?"



The monk answered, "No." Then the man killed the monk and completed his century of victims.

The killer inquired again as to who was the most learned person in the world. He was then directed to a scholar.

Accordingly he went to him and asked, "I've killed a hundred people. Is there any hope of forgiveness for me?"

The scholar said, "Yes. Nothing can stand between you and repentance. Go to this far land. In it are righteous people who serve Allah. Join them in the service of Allah and never return to your home country because it is an evil place."



So the man started for this land. But when he had covered only half the distance he met his death.

A dispute arose between the angel of mercy and the angel of torment as to who should take charge of his soul.

The former pleaded that now he had come as a penitent turning to Allah, the other argued that the deceased had never done a good deed.

Then there arrived another angel, but he was disguised as a man, and the contending angels agreed that he should be the arbiter between them.

He told them to measure the distance between the two lands. To whichever is nearer, to that one he belongs.

So they carried out the measurement and found the land of the righteous people to be closer. The angel of mercy thus took charge of him.

It was recorded by Muslim



Focus on Life

'Amr ibn Maimun reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

Get a hold of five things before five things happen: your youth before old age, your health before sickness, your riches before poverty, your leisure before business and your life before your death.

It was recorded by Tirmidhi

Life is Transient

Ibn Mas'ud reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

He who loves his present life does damage to his hereafter, and he who loves his hereafter does damage to his present life. So prefer what is lasting to what is fleeting.

It was recorded by Ahmad and Baihaqi

Our Real Rights

Usman reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

The descendants of Adam have a right to only these: a dwelling to live in, clothes to hide their nakedness, and some bread and water.

It was recorded by Tirmidhi

Avoid the Love of Luxury

Ibn Mas'ud reports that the Messenger of Allah • used to sleep on a reed mat which left marks on his body when he got up.

(Ibn Mas'ud) said, "O Messenger of Allah, • I wish you would have us spread something (more comfortable) or make something for you."

The Prophet • merely replied, "What have I to do with the world? In this world, I'm like a rider who shades himself under a tree, and then moves on and leaves it behind."

It was recorded by Ahmad, Tirmidhi & Ibn Majah



Admiration

Abu Umama reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

"The most enviable of my friends in my reckoning is the believer with few possessions. He finds his pleasure in prayer."

"He performs well in the service of his Lord and obeys Him in secret. He is anonymous among men and is not pointed out among people and his resources are just enough to content him."

He then snapped his fingers and said, "His death will come quickly, few women will mourn him and he will leave only a little."

It was recorded by Ahmad, Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah



A Steep Road

Umm al Darda reports that she asked Abu Darda what was wrong with him because he didn't ask for money and power like some others did. He answered that he heard Allah's Messenger * say:

"In front of you is a difficult ascent which the heavily laden cannot get over." So Abu Darda explained that he wanted to be light for that climb.



It was recorded by Baihaqi

A Dangerous Lock

Sahl ibn Sa'd reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

Wealth consists of a variety of treasures, and those treasures have keys. Blessed be he whom Allah has made a key for good and a lock for evil, but woe to he whom Allah has made a key for evil and a lock for good.

It was recorded by Ibn Majah

Our Purpose

A'ishah reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

The world is the dwelling of him who has no dwelling and the property of him who has no property. For he who has no intelligence acquires possessions.

It was recorded by Ahmad and Baihaqi



Where our True Concerns Lie

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

When a person dies the angels ask what he sent ahead, but the sons of Adam ask what he left behind.

It was recorded by Baihaqi

A Sign of Wisdom

Abu Khalid reports that the Messenger of Allah * said

When you see a person who is not possessed by worldly things and who says little, draw near to him, for he has been given wisdom.

It was recorded by Baihaqi



Greed

Sahl ibn Sa'd reports that someone asked the Messenger of Allah * how he can be loved by Allah and by people at the same time. He replied:

Don't desire the world and Allah will love you; don't desire the possessions of other people and they will love you.

It was recorded by Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah

Dual Orientation

Anas reports that the Messenger of Allah * asked some people:

"Can anyone walk in water without getting his feet wet?"

They answered in the negative. Thereupon he said, "So too, this is the condition of the worldly-oriented man; he cannot avoid making mistakes."

It was recorded by Baihaqi

Never Forget Allah's Blessings

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

When you see someone who is better off than you, look at one who is not as well off as you. Doing this will keep you from despising the blessings Allah has given you.

It was recorded by Muslim

Good Counsel

Abu Ayyub Al Ansari reports that someone went to the Messenger of Allah * and asked him for some brief advice. He replied:

When you stand for prayer, pray as if it were your last, don't say anything you will have to make an excuse for tomorrow and resolve to give up all hopes of what people possess.

It was recorded by Ahmad and Baihaqi



True Prosperity

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

Wealth doesn't come from an abundance of things. True wealth is a contented mind.

It was recorded by Bukhari and Muslim

Dual Fortune

Abu Yahiya Suhaib ibn Sinan reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

How excellent is a believer's situation, unlike all others, there is good in everything he does.

If he is prosperous, he thanks Allah, which is good, and if misfortune befalls him, he endures it with perseverance, and that is best for him.

It was recorded by Muslim



Allah's Mercy is Boundless

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

Allah has divided mercy into a hundred parts, out of which he retains ninety-nine parts with Him, and has sent the one remaining to earth.



From this one part emanates all the compassion that the whole of creation shows towards each other, so much so that an animal will lift her hoof above her young lest it should get hurt.

It was recorded by Bukhari

Allah May Hide our Faults

Ibn 'Umar reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

A believer will approach his Lord on the Day of Judgment and will be covered with His mercy.

He will ask him about his sins saying, "Do you remember such and such a sin?"

He will answer, "O Lord, I do remember."

Then Allah will say, "I kept it secret for you in the world and I pardon you today." Then the record of his good deeds will be given to him.

It was recorded by Bukhari and Muslim

The Reality of it All

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

This world is the believer's prison and the unbeliever's paradise.

It was recorded by Muslim



Endless Forgiveness

Anas reports that the Messenger of Allah * said that Allah, the Exalted, has said:

"O Child of Adam! Verily I shall continue to pardon you as long as you call upon Me and hope for My forgiveness, whatever your sins may be I care not."

"O Child of Adam, even if your sins should pile up as high as the sky and you asked for My forgiveness, I would forgive you."



"O Child of Adam, if you came to Me with an earth full of sins and met Me not holding anything as My equal, I would meet you with an earth full of forgiveness."

It was recorded by Tirmidhi

How to Stay on the Path

Al Nu'man ibn Bashir reports that the Messenger of Allah • said

Both allowed and forbidden things are clear, but in between the two are doubtful things that most people have no knowledge about.

So whoever preserves himself from these doubtful things saves his way of life and his honor.

But one who indulges in these doubtful things is like the shepherd who pastures (his flock) to close to someone else's claim, for he could go over into it at any time.

Beware! Every ruler has his private claim, and the claim of Allah on this earth is His prohibitions.



Beware! There is an organ in the body that, if it is reformed, the whole body is good, but if it becomes tainted, then the whole body is tainted. That organ is the heart.

It was recorded in Bukhari

Worldly Attractions

'Amr ibn 'Auf reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

By Allah, I don't fear poverty for you, but that worldly possessions may be given to you as lavishly as they were to your predecessors.

You may incline towards the delights of the world as they did, and it may destroy you as it destroyed them.

It was recorded in both Bukhari and in Muslim

Poverty and Character

Anas reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

"Allah, grant me the life of a poor man, cause me to die as a poor man and resurrect me in the company of the poor."

When A'ishah asked him why he said this, he replied, "Because they will enter Paradise forty years before the rich, so never turn a poor person away."

"A'ishah, even if you can only give a half a date, then give it. If you love the poor and let them come near you, A'ishah, Allah will bring you near to Him."

It was recorded by Tirmidhi and Baihaqi

Real Value

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

Allah does not regard your looks or your wealth. He regards you by your *taqwa* (awareness of His power over you) and your actions.

It was recorded in Muslim

Saving Grace

Anas reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

Whoever declared: 'There is no deity worthy of worship save Allah,' and had faith in his heart equal to the weight of a barley grain, he shall be taken out of Hell.

And whoever declared: 'There is no deity worthy of worship save Allah,' and had faith in his heart equal to the weight of a grain of wheat, he shall be taken out of Hell.

And whoever declared, 'There is no god worthy of worship save Allah,' and had in his heart faith equal to the weight of a speck, he shall be taken out of Hell.

It was recorded in Bukhari



Mercy for All

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah • kissed his grandson Hasan. Upon seeing this, Aqr'a, who was sitting with him, remarked, "I have ten sons and I've never kissed any of them."

The Messenger of Allah • looked up at him and said, "One who has no compassion for others will not be shown compassion (by Allah)."

It was recorded by Bukhari and Muslim

The Final Age

Salim bin 'Abdullah reports that the Messenger of Allah • said:

The time of your existence as opposed to that of the previous nations is like the time between the late afternoon and sunset prayers.

The people of the Torah were given (the Law) and they acted upon it until mid-day, but then they were exhausted and received one measure of reward."

"The people of the Gospel were given it (the Good News) and they acted upon it until the late afternoon, but then they were exhausted and received one measure of reward.

And then we were given the Qur'an and we will act upon it until sunset when we will be given two measures of reward.

The people of the two earlier scriptures will say, "Our Lord! You have given them two measures and only one to us, yet we have worked more than they."

Allah will reply, "Have I withheld any portion of your just reward?"

They will answer, saying, "No."

Then Allah will say, "These are My blessings and I bestow them upon whomever I please."

It was recorded in Bukhari



The Final Hour

Abu Hurairah reported that some people asked the Messenger of Allah, • "Will we see our Lord on the Day of Resurrection?"

"Do you have any doubts about seeing a full moon on a clear night?" he asked in reply.

They answered, "No, O Messenger of Allah." •

He then asked, "Do you have any doubts about seeing the sun on a cloudless day?"



They again answered in the negative. Then Allah's Messenger • announced:

"You will see Allah in a similar way. On the Day of Resurrection, when people will be grouped together, He will command them to serve what they used to worship."

"Hence, some of them will worship the sun, others the moon and yet others various assorted deities."

"Finally, only this community will be left, along with the hypocrites in its ranks. Allah will approach them and declare, 'I am your Lord,' to which they will reply, 'We shall remain here until our Lord comes to us and we recognize Him.'"

"Then Allah will approach closer and declare, 'I am your Lord,' to which they will reply, 'Indeed, You are our Lord.'"

Then, Allah will call them out, and a bridge will be laid over the chasm of Hell. I, Muhammad will be the first among the Messengers to cross over it with my followers."



"No one save the Messengers will be able to speak and they will be saying, 'Allah protect us. Allah protect us.'"

"There will be jagged hooks on the bridge, like the thorns of the Sa'dan plant. Have you seen those thorns?"

The people around him answered, "Yes," and then he continued speaking:

"Those jagged hooks will be like the thorns of the Sa'dan, but no one save for Allah knows their enormity of size."

"They will ensnare people according to their life's actions; some will tumble into Hell and remain forever, while others will be torn though eventually taken out of Hell when Allah intends mercy on whom He pleases amongst Hell's inmates."

"For those He will command that the angels remove them from Hell; all those who served no one save Allah."

"The angels will draw them out by recognizing the traces of their prostrations, for Allah has forbidden the fire to consume those marks."

"Thus, they will be removed from the fire, but it will have eaten away their flesh - save the prostration marks."

"When they are pulled from the fire they will be mere skeletons. The Water of Life will be poured over them and they will regenerate even as a seed on a river bank."



"Then, when Allah has finished making judgments among His creations, only one person will remain between Hell and Paradise, and he will be the last dweller of Hell to enter Paradise."

"He will be facing Hellfire and crying, 'O Allah! Turn my face from the fire for its scorching wind has baked me and its scalding steam has seared me.'"

"Allah will then ask him, 'Will you request anything else if I grant you this favor?'"

"'No, by Your Might!' he will reply. Then he will give to His Lord (as He will) promises and oaths.

"So Allah will turn his face from the fire, but when he is facing Paradise, and will see its delights, he shall remain silent as long as Allah wills."



"'My Lord,' he will ask, 'Let me go to the gate of Paradise.'"

"Allah will ask him, 'Did you not give pledges and make oaths that you would not ask for anything more than what you requested before?'"

"He will reply, 'My Lord, do not make me the poorest among Your creatures.'"

"Allah will answer, 'If this request is granted, will you then request anything else?'"

"'No,' he will cry, 'By Your Might I will not ask for anymore.'"

"Then he will give to His Lord (as He will) promises and oaths, and Allah will allow him to approach the gate of Paradise."

"When he reaches it, and after he has seen its vitality, allurement and delights, he will remain silent as long as Allah wills.

Then he will say, 'My Lord, let me enter Paradise.'"



"Allah will then declare, 'May Allah be merciful unto you, O son of Adam! How devious you are! Have you not made oaths and given promises that you will not request anything beyond what you have been given?'"

"The man will answer, 'My Lord, do not make me the poorest among Your creatures.'"

"Then Allah will laugh and allow him to enter Paradise; telling him to request as he like. He will do so until all his desires are fulfilled."

"Then Allah will say, 'Request more of these things.' And Allah will remind him and after all his desires and wishes have been met, Allah will announce, 'All this is granted to you and a similar amount besides.'"

It was recorded in Bukhari

Real Piety

Abu Hurairah reports that the Messenger of Allah * said:

Allah will shade these seven types of people on the Day when there will be no shade but His:

- a just ruler,
- a young person brought up in the service of Allah,
- a person whose heart is attached to the mosque,
- two people who love each other for Allah's sake and who meet and part in Allah's way exclusively,
- a man who resists the seductive lure of an attractive noble-woman with the words: 'I fear Allah,'
- a person who gives charity in such secrecy that their left hand knows not what the right hand has given,
- and a person who remembers Allah in seclusion, and their eyes fill with tears.

It was recorded in Bukhari

Social Responsibility

An-Nu'man ibn Basir reported that the Blessed Prophet * once told the following parable.

The example of a person who follows Allah's orders and limits in comparison to the one who does wrong and violates Allah's limits and orders is like the example of people drawing lots for seats on a boat.

Some of them got seats in the upper deck while the others went to the lower part.



Those in the lower part of the ship have to pass through the people in the upper decks to get water, and that bothered the people up there.

One of (the people from below) took an axe and started making a hole in the bottom of the boat. The people in the upper decks came and asked him, 'What's the matter with you?'

He answered, 'You keep getting bothered a lot by my (passing through your deck) and I need some water.'

Now if they stop him from doing that, they will save him and themselves. But if they leave him alone, they will destroy him and themselves.

It was recorded in Bukhari

Remain True to the End

The Prophet • once said, "There will come a time upon humanity when nothing will remain of Islam except its name only and nothing will remain of the Qur'an except its ritual."

"The *masjids* will be full, but will be lacking in guidance. The learned people will be the worst under the sky and trouble will come from them and go back to them."

It was recorded in Baihaqi

Epilogue

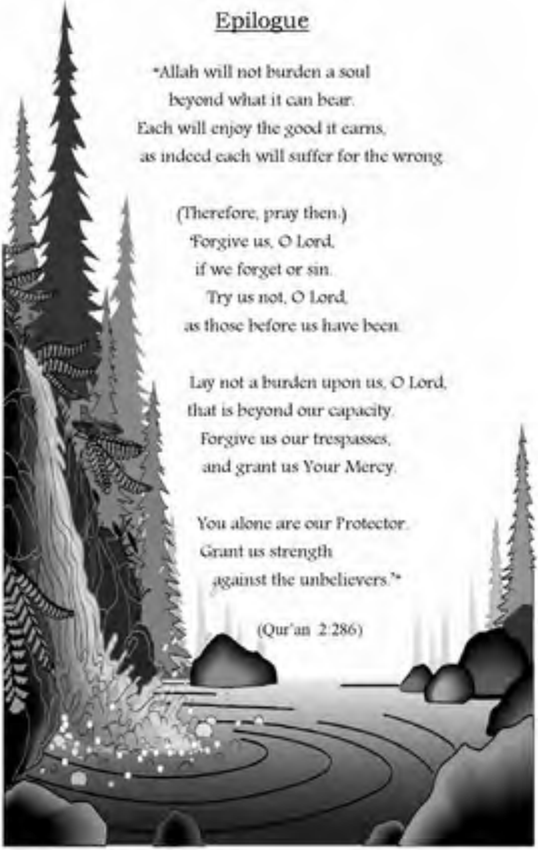
"Allah will not burden a soul
beyond what it can bear.
Each will enjoy the good it earns,
as indeed each will suffer for the wrong.

(Therefore, pray then.)
'Forgive us, O Lord,
if we forget or sin.
Try us not, O Lord,
as those before us have been.

Lay not a burden upon us, O Lord,
that is beyond our capacity.
Forgive us our trespasses,
and grant us Your Mercy.

You alone are our Protector.
Grant us strength
against the unbelievers.'"

(Qur'an 2:286)



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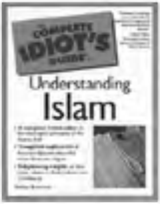
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